

Abstract

Apparatus for removing material from a workpiece is described, in which the apparatus comprises means for advancing an abrasive tool towards the workpiece to bring an abrasive surface of the tool into contact with the surface of the workpiece, means for moving the abrasive surface relative to the workpiece to remove material from the workpiece, means for detecting a load applied to the tool by the workpiece, and means for controlling the rate of advancement of the abrasive tool towards the workpiece depending on the magnitude of the detected load.